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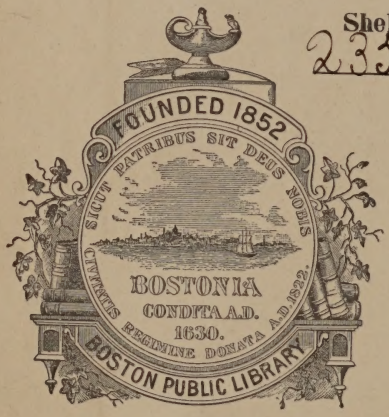

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DESCRIPTION

OF

THE ENGRAVING

OF

Plymouth Rock, 1620.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED AN

OUTLINE OF THE OCCURRENCES

CONNECTED WITH THE

LANDING OF THE FOREFATHERS.

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PLYMOUTH ROCK, 1620.

THE landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, in 1620, is the great the leading event in the history of our republic. The previous attempt to colonize the New World, which had been made in Virginia, had proved substantially a failure. The motives which had suggested that enterprise, the character of the men by whom it was undertaken, and the mercenary principles and conflicting views which controlled their purposes and embarrassed all their movements, were in their nature unstable and ephemeral, as was fully illustrated by the insignificant and unsatisfactory results which followed. On the other hand, the stern and unselfish resolves, the bold and uncompromising spirit, the fixed principles, and the firm and united determination of the Pilgrims, as they are distinctively called, imparted to their undertaking the elements of that success which was soon visible in the solid growth of their colony, and which is now seen in the benign institutions of our wide-spread republic. Though not wanting in foresight, and full of faith and hope, this little band of adventurers and humble wanderers could have had no conception that they were destined to be amongst the principal founders of the mightiest republic on earth.

Fortunately, no event in the progress of nations is established

upon more unquestionable testimony, or is more safely removed from the uncertainties of history or the doubts of tradition, than is that of the landing of our forefathers upon Plymouth Rock, full of romance as it is. There is danger, however, that the circumstances which give it such peculiar interest will be forgotten in the declining taste for the study of history, and amidst the engrossing activities of this practical age. There is already a prevalent ignorance of the facts immediately connected with the first arrival of the Pilgrims upon our shores. The design of the present engraving is to revive a public interest in that momentous event, and perpetuate a common gratitude for its invaluable results.

The Pilgrims who founded the Colony of Plymouth were some of the immediate adherents of John Robinson, one of the earliest and most zealous of the Puritan preachers of the time of James I, of England. Robinson had gathered a congregation in Nottinghamshire about the beginning of the seventeenth century. He and his followers were even more rigid in their practice than the other Puritans, and had totally separated themselves from the established church. To avoid the opposition and persecution to which they had exposed themselves, they determined to abandon their native country, and to seek some other in which they might enjoy their opinions unmolested. They went accordingly, in 1608, to the city of Leyden, in Holland, where they sustained themselves as a distinct and harmonious community, till 1620, when the long-cherished purpose of removing to America was carried into effect. A part of the congregation, upwards of one hundred in number, embarked at Delfthaven, in July of that year, in the *Speedwell*, a vessel of sixty tons, for Southampton, in England, where they were to join the *Mayflower*.

There were other reasons than that of the general purpose which Robinson's people had entertained of emigrating to America which

induced them to adopt the bold design at the time they did — reasons which reflect honor upon their moral and patriotic character. They had preserved, in their residence at Leyden, a devoted attachment to England, although they had been driven as it were from her bosom; they desired to live under the dominion of their native sovereign in any part of his empire where they might enjoy their religious faith unmolested; and they were anxious that their children should be reared under the influences of their national character and the language of their fathers. The loose morals of the people among whom they dwelt, and their careless observance of the Sabbath, moreover, excited the apprehensions of the austere Puritans that their children would be contaminated and diverted from their habits of religious simplicity, and strengthened their purpose to abandon Holland.

On the arrival of the *Speedwell* at Southampton, many of her passengers were transferred to the *Mayflower*, a larger vessel, being one hundred and eighty tons, and both vessels left that port on the 5th of August, 1620, for America. Finding the *Speedwell* leaky, both ships put into Dartmouth, where the *Speedwell* was overhauled. Sailing again on the 21st of August, the *Speedwell* was still found to be leaky; and again putting into port at Plymouth she was pronounced unseaworthy and condemned, and her passengers transferred to the *Mayflower*, with the exception of about twenty, who became discouraged, and refused to reëmbark. The remainder of the company, one hundred and one in number, sailed from Plymouth in the *Mayflower* on the 6th of September, bidding an everlasting farewell to England. Hudson River was originally the destination. On the 9th of November, after a voyage amidst adverse winds and fierce storms, such as were well calculated to intimidate less confident and determined hearts and to discourage less enterprising and indomitable purposes, they made land at Cape Cod.

The danger of navigation, and their anxiety, after a long and fatiguing voyage, to be put on shore, joined to the treachery of their captain, who had been bribed by the Dutch Company not to land them on the shores of the Hudson, all conspired to alter their original destination, and, doubling Cape Cod, they came to anchor in what is now Provincetown Harbor. The captain, alarmed at the diminution of provisions, pressed a speedy landing, and even threatened to put the company on shore, and leave them to their fate. The Pilgrims resolved to commence their settlement without delay, and parties were sent on shore to examine the country. The progress of exploration was necessarily slow. The weather was excessively cold, and the men being compelled to wade in the water, laid the foundation of diseases which proved mortal to many. Their shallop needed repairs, and two or three weeks were occupied in that work.

It was at this time that the famous compact was agreed upon on board the *Mayflower*, and signed unanimously by the company, by which they bound themselves together as a civil body politic, and agreed to enact and constitute such just and equal laws and offices as should be thought meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; promising due subjection and obedience. This brief and comprehensive compact established a principle which is at the foundation of all the democratic institutions of America, and is the basis of our republic. This principle is that the will of a majority of the people shall govern. The declaration of it at that time, and under the circumstances in which it was made, excites increased admiration, when it is considered that the doctrine was in defiance of the then universal theory that all popular rights were granted by the Crown. It was the discovery of a truth in the science of government which had been concealed for ages. "On the bleak shore of a barren wilderness, in the midst

of desolation, with the blasts of winter howling around them, and surrounded by dangers in their most awful and appalling forms, the Pilgrims of Leyden laid the foundation of American liberty. In the pursuit of religious freedom, they established civil liberty; meaning only to found a church, they gave birth to a nation; and in settling a town, they commenced an empire."[1] John Carver was chosen governor for the first year, immediately after the signing of the compact; and Miles Standish was elected captain, with authority to order all military concerns.

The results of the preliminary surveys of the country were not satisfactory, and a consultation was held respecting the final settlement. Some were in favor of settling at a creek between what is now Truro and Wellfleet, which they called Cold Harbor; and some advised that they should proceed to Agawam (Ipswich), the harbor of which was known to fishermen who had been on the coast; but at the suggestion of the pilot, it was determined to ex-

[1] All the male members of the company signed this compact, namely, *John Carver* (who was immediately chosen the first governor), William Bradford, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, Isaac Allerton, Miles Standish, John Alden, Samuel Fuller, *Christopher Martin*, *Edward Fuller*, *John Turner*, Francis Eaton, *James Chilton*, *John Crackston*, John Billington, *Moses Fletcher*, *John Goodman*, *Degory Priest*, *William Mullins*, *William White*, Richard Warren, John Howland, Stephen Hopkins, *Edward Tilly*, *John Tilly*, Francis Cook, *Thomas Rogers*, *Thomas Tinker*, *John Ridgdale*, *Thomas Williams*, Gilbert Winslow, *Edmund Margeson*, Peter Brown, *Richard Britteridge*, *Richard Clarke*, Richard Gardner, *John Allerton*, *Thomas English*, Edward Dotey, Edward Leister. The names in *Italic* indicate those who died during the first winter. About the same number of the women also died, making forty-six in all. Among the women who died were Rose Standish, wife of Miles, and the wives of Carver, Isaac Allerton, and Edward Winslow. Bradford's wife was drowned from the *Mayflower* before the landing. The first birth in the colony, that of Peregrine White, occurred also before the landing. One half of the *Mayflower's* crew died before the vessel left on her return in April, 1621.

plore the coast further to the westward, across the bay. A party embarked in the shallop for this purpose, the weather being so intensely cold that the spray which fell upon their clothes was instantly frozen. They landed in Wellfleet Harbor, where they made careful preparations for spending the night; but at midnight they were alarmed by the presence of Indians, who at daybreak discharged their arrows upon them. They returned the fire with their muskets, and a contest ensued which soon ended bloodlessly, the Indians fleeing. The place was named First Encounter, and the voyage of discovery was continued with great difficulty in the face of a blinding and threatening storm, until at night they found shelter under an island at the entrance of Plymouth Harbor, which they called Clarke's Island. They landed here and kindled a fire, the cold being intense. From this island they sounded the harbor, and made such further explorations as induced the company to commence the settlement at that place. The anchorage of the *Mayflower* was accordingly transferred to Plymouth Harbor, and the company left the vessel and landed on the rock which "now bears a consecrated character, to which pilgrimages are made, and to which the posterity of the Pilgrims delight to throng, to call up the sublime associations with which its history is connected." The honor of having first placed the foot on this immortal rock has been claimed for John Alden and Mary Chilton, but not upon such testimony as to settle definitely what is, after all, a comparatively unimportant question.

The landing occurred on the 11th of December, old style, which answers to the 21st of December, new style. The event was for a long period commemorated on the 22d of December, that day having been, by some error of calculation, reckoned as the true anniversary. Subsequently and more accurately, however, the 21st was

fixed upon, and is henceforth to be honored as the proper Forefathers' Day.

"Wild was the day: the wintry sea
Moaned sadly on New England's strand,
When first the thoughtful and the free,
Our fathers, trod the desert land.

"They little thought how pure a light,
With years, should gather round that day;
How love should keep their memories bright,
How wide a realm their sons should sway.

"Green are their bays; but greener still
Shall round their spreading fame be wreathed,
And regions, now untrod, shall thrill
With reverence when their names are breathed;

"Till where the sun, with softer fires,
Looks on the vast Pacific's sleep,
The children of the Pilgrim sires
The hallowed day, like us, shall keep."

Bryant.

In a geological account of Plymouth a description of the memorable rock upon which our forefathers landed, in their debarkation from the *Mayflower*, is given, as follows: "It is not a little curious that one loose rock on the shore of Plymouth harbor should have become so famous as is that called the Pilgrims' Rock, where there is not known in the township a single ledge save those the fisherman reaches with his lead at various points of the coast. The Pilgrims' Rock is one of these boulders — itself an older pilgrim than those who landed on it. It is an extremely hard variety of sienitic granite, of a dark-gray color. The mica is in very small quantity, in fine black particles. The rock, by its round edges, bears evidence of its rolled character, as well as of the attempts to

break specimens from it, which fortunately its extreme hardness renders seldom successful. The rock is now in two pieces, each piece about four feet through." Happily there is no question as to the identity of this famous rock. It has been established by unquestionable testimony as the veritable rock upon which the Pilgrims landed.

A part of Plymouth Rock was removed from its original bed before the Revolution, and placed in the Town Square. For the purpose of rendering available the patriotic associations connected with the rock, some ardent Whigs, in 1774, undertook its removal to a spot where a liberty-pole might be erected over it, and where it might be conveniently seen and employed as an incitement to zealous and vigorous efforts in the revolutionary struggle. The attempt was made to remove the whole rock; but the spirit of the Pilgrims would seem to have interposed to prevent such a desecration, or, to say the least, such a needless purpose, such a misdirection of a worthy motive. In the attempt at removal, the rock was accidentally or unintentionally split asunder. The incident, which would have excited the liveliest superstition of the Pilgrim fathers, was regarded with various prognostics by their scarcely less scrupulous sons. The timid and distrustful looked upon the rending of the sacred rock as the rupture of the essential bonds of liberty, while the more hopeful and zealous would fain have persuaded themselves that it was a good omen, by endeavoring to persuade others that it presaged the final separation of the colonies from the mother country. The result was, that, in a spirit of compromise which would have found little favor with their Puritan ancestors, they agreed to return one portion of the divided rock to its original bed, while the other was drawn by twenty yoke of oxen to the Square, where it was duly surmounted by the inspiriting liberty-pole. From this place, sixty years afterwards, on the 4th of July,

it was transferred to its present location in front of the Pilgrim Hall, and inclosed by an iron railing, on which are inscribed the names of those who signed the celebrated compact on board the *Mayflower*.

Mr. Webster, in his oration upon Plymouth Rock, at the celebration of Forefathers' Day in 1820, said: "Beneath us is the rock on which New England received the feet of the Pilgrims. We seem even to behold them, as they struggle with the elements, and with toilsome efforts gain the shore. We listen to the chiefs in council. We see the unexampled exhibition of female fortitude and resignation. We hear the whisperings of youthful impatience; and we see chilled and shivering childhood, houseless but for a mother's arms, and couchless but for a mother's breast, till our own blood almost freezes. The mild dignity of Carver and Bradford; the decisive and soldier-like air of Standish; the devout Brewster; the enterprising Allerton; the general firmness and thoughtfulness of the whole band; their conscious joy for dangers escaped; their deep solicitude about dangers to come; their trust in Heaven; their high religious faith, full of confidence and anticipation; — all these seem to belong to this place, and to be present on this occasion, to fill us with reverence and admiration."

De Tocqueville derived inspiration from Plymouth Rock. In reference to it he said, with great truth and beauty: "The rock has become an object of veneration in the United States. I saw bits of it carefully preserved in several towns of the Union. Does not this sufficiently show that all human power and greatness is in the soul of man? Here is a stone which the feet of a few outcasts pressed for an instant, and the stone becomes famous; it is treasured by a great nation; its very dust is shared as a relic. And what has become of the gateways of a thousand palaces? Who cares for them?"

"No New Englander," as was well remarked by Dr. Dwight, President of Yale College, "can stand upon Plymouth Rock without experiencing emotions very different from those which are excited by any common object of the same nature. No New Englander could be willing to have that rock buried and forgotten. Let him reason as much, as coldly, as ingeniously as he pleases, he will still regard that spot with emotions wholly different from those excited by other places of equal or greater importance."

THE ENGRAVING OF PLYMOUTH ROCK,

which is now offered to the public, is a pure line engraving, upon steel, by JOSEPH ANDREWS, from an original picture, painted by Mr. ROTHERMEL, an eminent artist of Philadelphia, expressly for the purpose.

The print is 24 by 18 inches in size, and the engraving has occupied the greater portion of fifteen years.

The design is in the strictest sense a national one, the object being, by the aid of art, to illustrate the most striking event in the history of our Republic, and to commemorate the establishment of civil and religious liberty upon the American Continent.

The engraving is published at 21 Bromfield Street, Boston, and is sold only by subscription, at the following prices: —

Plain Prints	$10.00
India "	15.00
Proofs before letters, on plain paper	20.00
" on India paper, with Engraver's signature	25.00

This historical picture embodies the eventful story of the landing of our forefathers upon Plymouth Rock, in 1620. The Rock of course constitutes the base of the picture. The Boat employed for the debarkation is moored at the rock, in a rough sea, being held, with rope and pole, by the strong arms of some of the Pilgrim band. The still lowering clouds and troubled waves indi-

cate the breaking away of a cold and boisterous storm, and the fearful struggle with the elements which the hardy adventurers had endured. The *Mayflower*, which as the transport of the pioneers of a new empire has become so famous in history, lies at her anchorage in the distance. The central figures of the picture are those of Miles Standish, the military leader of the Pilgrims, and Rose, his young and beautiful wife. He stands upon the rock, with his accustomed decisive and soldier-like air, aiding his companion to step from the boat upon the shore where in a few weeks she was to find an untimely grave. John Carver, who, upon the formation of that remarkable compact of government on board the *Mayflower* which was the beginning of our constitutions, had already been chosen governor of the colony, is seen in the stern of the boat, gazing with calm dignity and yet with solicitude upon the land of expectation, and hope, and promise. In the centre of the boat is the erect and manly form of Isaac Allerton — the active and enterprising Allerton, as he was justly called. He is grasping a long pole, by means of which, with energetic firmness, he is shoving or holding the boat in its position, to facilitate, apparently, the debarkation of the women. Behind Allerton may be seen William Bradford and Edward Winslow, two of the guiding spirits of the band of exiles, both of whom afterwards became prominent as governors, and to whose consummate prudence and incessant enterprise, aided by the matchless valor of Standish, the colony, surrounded as it was by fearful dangers, was saved from destruction, Bradford stands in the boat's stern, vigorously engaged in pulling one of the ropes by which it is held to the rock; while Winslow, with thoughts which can well be imagined, is gazing upon the new scene before him. Near Rose Standish, and preparing to follow her, are Mrs. Allerton and her daughter Mary — the wan and dejected countenance of the former foreshadowing the sickness and death which soon followed; while the latter, healthful and vigorous in youth, and unconscious of the dangers to come, was destined to be the last survivor of those who came over in the *Mayflower*. In the foreground is John Howland, an active and efficient member of the company, a son-in-law of Gov. Carver, and subsequently a deputy or assistant governor. He stands in the water holding the rope at the bow of the boat. At the other extremity of the rock is Stephen Hopkins, taking a turn of the stern rope around a jutting point. Elder Brewster, whose submissive piety was as important in its effects upon the stability and prosperity of the colony as were the more active virtues of his companions, is represented on shore, in the attitude of grateful thanksgiving, surrounded by a number of sympathizing fellow-Pilgrims, including Mrs. White and her

infant Peregrine (who had the high distinction of being the first born in the colony), and Mary Chilton, a young woman of confident and lightsome heart, for whom is claimed the honor of having first set foot on Plymouth Rock. John Alden (who it is said, however, should share this honor with Mary Chilton), and others of the Pilgrim heroes, may be distinguished in the thoughtful group by countenances which portray their distinctive characters.

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